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Sound. In one respect I regret leaving Ft. Langley—it is a snug comfortable place—but when I find it is high time for me to see and get my little Boys to school—God bless them I have now no less than five of them, all in a promising way. Jennie is glad to hear of Charlotte's welfare and begs to be most kindly remembered to her. I hear poor Mr. Prudent is not too well in health—he wrote me himself but did not say so. If I succeed with my six men in reaching the Columbia safely I shall endeavour to write you a few lines on the envelope to say how I am likely to be disposed of &c. &c. &c. Meantime believe me my Dear friend

Most sincerely yours

(Sgd) ARCH'D McDONALD.

Appalled by Fever.

John Work prefers all other savage dangers to that of leading a fever-stricken party through hostile lands:

Fort Vancouver, 24th Feby. 1834.

My Dear Edward

After an expedition of 16 months I arrived here on the 29th of October when I had the particular pleasure of receiving your, your very kind and highly valued letter of the 3rd Feby. last and was extremely happy to hear of your health and welfare and that you are getting on so well and the fair prospects before you. Accept my best thanks for the fund of interesting information which your letter contains. I can scarcely help envying you the contentment and happiness you enjoy. Let not the trouble you have buying selling and bartering discourage you but go on vigorously, your perseverance and prudence will insure success and in a short time your business will be on a more extensive scale and much more satisfactory to yourself. Keep in remembrance that many of the principal merchants in Canada who be persevering industry realized handsome fortunes, and though with no very extraordinary talents commenced business on a far lesser scale than you have done. God prosper you and may you succeed to the full extent of your wishes My dear Ned as I have frequently told you I have been long heartily tired of this Indian country and the wretched life which it has been often my lot to lead in it, and would be happy to leave it immediately, but as affairs stand at present I can perhaps save more here than in business, with the small sum I could begin upon, besides it is more certain, at least for some time, I therefore deem it best to endeavor with strict economy to save a little more so that I might be likely to have better success. I am also afraid of my own want of experience. My last expedition was the most unpleasant one I have yet had. I was to the Southward to California we had a good deal of trouble and some skirmishes with

hostile tribes of savages who are there very numerous, some parts of the country are very rugged and difficult to pass, but what was worst of all the fever broke out among my people, (near 100 in number) and spread so rapidly among them that in a short time more than three fourths of the party, myself, the three little ones & their mother among the number, were attacked by it. A number of us were soon reduced to a most helpless state, indeed wretched, without medicines, (for my stock had been all expended,) or any kind of necessities for people in such a condition, having to pass through hostile tribes of treacherous savage Indians, and a month & a half's march to get here where alone I could expect to obtain assistance, we were in a most deplorable condition I am unable to describe it, at length by persevering and with much difficulty we got this length. Two men and Indian & two children belonging to the party died on the way, I was so much exhausted by this debilitating disease that I was reduced to a perfect skeleton and could scarcely walk, but by medical aid and enjoying the comforts of the establishment, comforts which I had been long a stranger to, I am now, thank God recovered and in pretty good health. Ah! Ned, the dangers among the Blackfeet are bad enough God knows, but them and all the other troubles in my most troublesome part of this savage country are not to be compared to the calamity of a whole party being thus attacked with sickness in a wilderness far from any aid or means of procuring remedies. God keep me from ever experiencing the like again. I had a letter from Frank not long since he is passing the winter at Colville with Mr. McDonald and was then well, he was in the plains last summer and is to return again, it is a dangerous situation I have cautioned him to be particularly on his guard. Here affairs go on much in the old way, The Doctor's perseverance has made a great change you would scarcely know the place every bit of cleared ground and a great deal more which has been cleared is under cultivation and the quantity of grain produced is immense. A thrashing mill which he has had built this winter has been some time at work and distilling whiskey has been going on all winter, a hundred head of swine have been killed to make pork for the Naval Department. There are four vessels constantly in the country. Our friend J. Tod now winters in the neighborhood of Ye and always passes the summer there, & I am happy to hear he has got quite well. I may be so situated that I cannot be punctual in writing but be assured I shall miss no opportunity, and I trust you will do the same and continue to give me the news and prospects in your quarter.

God bless you Yours ever affectionately

Edwd. Ermatinger Esq.

JOHN WORK.